

## **Michigan Supreme Court 2015 Objectives and Accomplishments**

### **Objective: Measuring Court Performance**

***Why it matters:*** *Measuring performance provides courts with information needed to make management decisions to share what is working and to target areas where service to the public can be improved.*

#### **Focusing on Collecting and Publishing Metrics**

- Every court in Michigan has adopted performance measures and has an online dashboard with updated information about timeliness and public satisfaction.
- Trial courts cleared 96 percent of cases within Michigan Supreme Court time guidelines.
- In a recent survey of 25,000 court users, 93 percent said they were treated with courtesy and respect, 87 percent said they were able to get their business done in a reasonable amount of time and 83 percent thought their case was handled fairly.
- We are measuring more and analyzing more in order to provide guidance on best practices to courts on topics ranging from budgeting to jury management.

#### **Data Driven Problem-Solving Courts**

- More than 164 problem-solving courts are accessible to 97 percent of Michigan's population. Drug, sobriety, mental health and veterans treatment courts provide strict supervision and treatment focused on making sure that offenders don't get in trouble again. The result? Fewer repeat offenders and safer communities.
- Michigan's 22 veterans treatment courts make our state number one nationwide in helping veterans access needed services to address their problems and avoid costly incarceration.
- Participants in mental health and sobriety courts are three times less likely to reoffend while participants in drug courts are two times less likely to reoffend after two years.
- The use of ignition interlock devices is cutting in half the number of convicted drunk drivers who reoffend after being on probation.

### **Objective: Implementing Technology**

***Why it matters:*** *Technology solutions can improve public access to court services and help courts streamline operations to be more efficient and save money.*

#### **Videoconferencing Saves Time and Resources**

- Videoconferencing equipment has now been installed in at least one district, circuit and probate court in all 83 counties (every courtroom in 78 counties; all counties by 2016).
- With more than 600 courtrooms now equipped to allow for video arraignments from jail or testimony from prison, jurisdictions at all levels are saving time and resources.
- Michigan Department of Corrections saved more than \$12 million over the past five years because they were able to conduct more than 15,000 "video" transports.

### **E-Filing will Increase Convenience for Public, Boost Court Efficiency**

- With e-filing, the public will be able to file court documents anywhere, anytime, without having to stand in line.
- E-filing will reduce the need to receive and file paper documents, increasing efficiency and streamlining court operations.
- E-filing legislation was recently approved by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Snyder, and implementation will begin in 2016.

### **Judicial Data Warehouse Provides Access to Critical Information**

- Virtually every court in Michigan now provides data to supplement the more than 46 million records in the Judicial Data Warehouse.
- Over the past year, this database of court records was accessed more than 460,000 times by courts, law enforcement and state agencies.
- Access to this information makes sure judges and other public safety officials have important information needed to make decisions and protect the public.

### **Online Ticket Payment & Resolution Options Continue to Grow**

- It's pain enough to get a ticket; it shouldn't be a pain to pay it. Virtually every Michigan citizen has access to online ticket payment (105 out of 108 district or municipal courts).
- Contesting a ticket is getting more user-friendly and convenient. Online ticket review is available in Bay County, East Lansing, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Washtenaw County and City of Wayne.
- With online ticket review, the public can resolve certain tickets and outstanding fines online, any time, without missing work. You can even use your smart phone. No court date is needed and cases are resolved in about week instead of a month or more, saving courts, prosecutors and police valuable time.

### **Michigan Online Legal Helps Residents Address Issues Without an Attorney**

- Since 2012, more than 1.6 million visitors have accessed MichiganLegalHelp.org. The site helps Michigan residents address legal problems without having to use an attorney.
- Michigan is one the top three states nationwide in providing online access to a wide range of legal resources, ranging from divorce to landlord-tenant disputes.

## **Objective: Re-Engineering Court Processes**

**Why it matters:** Courts are committed to being the best stewards of public resources. Through streamlining, sharing of resources, and focused leadership, courts statewide are getting leaner and tightening their belts while maintaining a high level of customer service.

### **Rightsizing the Judiciary**

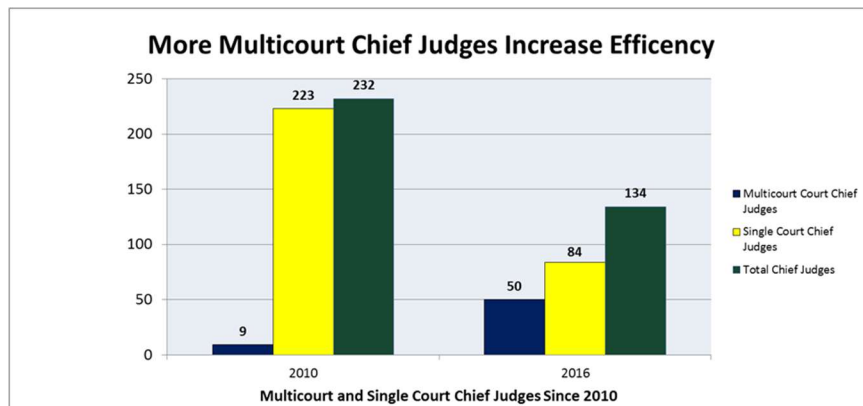
- Rightsizing the judiciary to balance workloads will result in the reduction of 40 judicial seats and has already saved taxpayers \$10.4 million over the past four years. No other state has reduced the number of judges by more than a handful.
- 2015 recommendations call for a net reduction of six more judicial seats.
- When the reductions are completely implemented, taxpayers will have saved nearly \$200 million.

### **Concurrent Jurisdiction Plans**

- Virtually all Michigan counties plan to streamline their court systems through the adoption of concurrent jurisdiction plans. These plans allow courts to share resources, balance judicial workloads and cooperate to increase efficiency and improve service to the public.

### **Multi-court Chief Judges**

- Multi-court chiefs are charged with cutting bureaucracy, eliminating duplication and improving service to the public.
- Up from only 9 in 2010, the Michigan Supreme Court has appointed 50 multi-court chief judges. The number of single court chiefs has been cut by two-thirds since 2010.



### **Business Courts**

- Authorized by the Legislature in 2013, there are now 17 business courts statewide that have already produced more than 630 opinions. The result? Case processing time has been cut in half and decisions are more consistent.